



At the speaker's table at the luncheon session are (left to right): Alex Elson '28, Judge Joseph J. Drucker, Professor Allison Dunham, Chairman, Mrs. Edwin Eisendrath, Senator Walker Butler, and Jerome S. Weiss '30.

Youth, the Law, and the Courts

The first of the series of Fiftieth Anniversary conferences sponsored by the Law School this year was held on September 26 on the subject "Youth, the Law, and the Courts." Allison Dunham of the Law School faculty was chairman of the conference committee. Co-operating with the Law School on the committee was the Illinois Commission on Children and Youth represented by Mr. Alex Elson, '28, Mrs. John T. Even, Mrs. Walter T. Fisher, Mrs. Thomas H. Ludlow, and The Reverend David W. Witte. The Chicago Bar Association which was the third organization on the co-operative committee was represented by Jerome S. Weiss, '30, who is chairman of the Association's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Adolescent Offenders.

In its conference statement the committee pointed out that it was considering no new problems. Questions relating to youthful offenders and the courts in Illinois have been considered unilaterally by many organizations at many times and places. Constructive programs often have been thwarted or hindered because the areas of agreement among interested groups and individuals have not been clearly formulated for legislative consideration. The conference sponsored by the Law School in co-operation with the Commission and the Bar Association was planned in the hope that a positive program of recommendations for administrative and legislative action would result. The proceedings of the conference are being printed and will be available for distribution shortly.

The morning session on "Youth and the Present Law of Illinois" was chaired by Mr. Elson. Mr. Sherwood Norman, consultant on detention of the National Probation and Parole Association, spoke on "Existing Provisions for Handling, Detention, and Treatment of Youthful Offenders before Conviction." Mr. Jerome Weiss's paper considered the subject: "Existing Law, Courts, and Institutions for Convicting, Sentencing, and Correcting Youthful Offenders."

The commentators for the morning session were Judge

Joseph J. Drucker of the Municipal Court and Mrs. Zenia Sachs Goodman, formerly a member of the office of the State's Attorney of Cook County.

Professor Allison Dunham chaired the luncheon session at which the principal speaker was Senator Walker Butler, chairman of the Illinois Legislative Commission on Youth. Senator Butler spoke on "Does Illinois Need a Change in Its Law for Youthful Offenders?"

The afternoon session was broken up into five workshops each considering some aspect of the problems related to youthful offenders. The workshop questions and chairmen were: *What should be done about conflict of jurisdiction among courts handling youthful offenders?* Lawrence Dimsdale, Regional Attorney, Chicago, Federal Security Administration; *How should the sentencing function be related to the treatment function?* Frank T. Flynn, Jr., Associate Professor of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago; *The relation of the probation process to treatment for youthful offenders*, Ben S. Meeker, Chief Probation Officer, United States District Court for Northern District of Illinois; *What legislative or administrative standards are needed with respect to diagnosis?* George J. Mohr, M.D., Chicago; *What additional facilities should be developed for prevention and treatment of youthful offenders, and what legislation is needed?* Jessie F. Binford, Executive Director, The Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago.

The conference participants met again in the afternoon for reports from the workshop chairmen and for summary discussions.

Andrew J. Dallstream, '17, President of the Chicago Bar Association, presided at the evening session and introduced Judge Thomas E. Kluczynski of the Juvenile Court. The principal speaker at the concluding session was Newspaperman Albert Deutsch, who presented "A Program for Youth in the Courts."